

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119099

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CSCE, NATO

SUBJECT:CSCE/CBMS - MAY 24 POLADS MEETING (ISD/142)

REFS:
(A) NATO 3861
(B) NATO 3544
(C) STATE 82499
(D) STATE 75283
(E) STOCKHOLM 1503
(F) STATE 46448
(G) NATO 854

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1. IS DRAFT LIST OF POSSIBLE COMMON CRITERIA FOR TREATMENT
OF OBSERVERS (REFTELS A AND B) IS TIMELY AND USEFUL TOOL
WITH WHICH POLADS MAY BEGIN TO SET PRIORITIES AND TIGHTEN
LANGUAGE OF THE CBM PROPOSALS WHICH ALLIES WILL ADVANCE
OR SUPPORT. WITH A MONTH AND A HALF HAVING PASSED BEFORE
MAY 20 POLADS SESSION ON THE IS CBMS LONG PAPER (ISD/141),
WE CONTINUE MINDFUL OF THE NEED FOR STEADY WORK ON CBMS

(PARA THREE OF REFTTEL C AND PARA ONE OF REFTTEL D).

2. REFTTEL SHOULD BE UTILIZED AS DEPARTURE FOR DISCUSSING OBSERVER TREATMENT. WE NOTE THAT IS FORMULATIONS IN REFTTEL B ARE BROADER THAN THOSE OF PARA 3, REF F. WE ALSO NOTE THAT IS DRAFT LIST OF POSSIBLE COMMON CRITERIA FOR TREATMENT OF OBSERVERS CONTAINS ONLY SIX ITEMS, WHILE OBSERVER CRITERIA AS SET FORTH IN FRG PROPOSAL (REF G), TO WHICH REFTTEL F RESPONDED, CONTAINED NINE ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN IS RATIONALE FOR MORE GENERAL LANGUAGE AS WELL AS FOR DROPPING THREE FRG CRITERIA, VIZ.: "THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ASK QUESTIONS"; "THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A LOOK AT AND GET SOME INFORMATION ON THE MATERIAL INVOLVED IN THE MANEUVER"; AND "THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITH SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS TAKING PART IN THE MANEUVER." FURTHER, WE BELIEVE THAT A CRITERION ON ASSURANCES OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES TO INCLUDE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO OWN NATIONAL AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE ADDED TO THE LIST. SUCH ASSURANCES HAVE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT PROVED A DECIDING FACTOR IN CASES OF PROTECTION OR COERCION IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

3. AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIFIC COMMENTS ENUMERATED BELOW, MISSION MIGHT NOTE TO POLADS THAT SWEDES HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WILL BE MAKING A "CODE OF CONDUCT" PROPOSAL AND THEY WOULD PASS ON AN ADVANCE DRAFT (PARA FOUR OF REFTTEL E). WE WOULD SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT THE DRAFT CRITERIA BE CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF A PROPOSAL THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIES MAY WELL BE SUPPORTING RATHER THAN ADVANCING.

4. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT CRITERIA OF REFTTEL A:

A. WE BELIEVE THAT A BETTER ORDER OF PRIORITY WOULD BE 1-2-3-6-5-4. OUR RATIONALE IS THAT:

1. "RIGHT OF ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS" RATHER THAN "NORMAL RIGHT. . .TO COMMUNICATE" (CRITERION 6) WOULD BE A MORE DEFINITIVE EXPRESSION OF THIS SIGNIFICANT OBLIGATION FOR THE HOST AUTHORITIES. WE ASSUME HERE THAT IS IS HERE ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF ACCESS FOR MANEUVER OBSERVERS NOT IN THE DIPLOMATIC SENSE BUT IN TERMS OF ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS WHILE IN THE FIELD FOR REPORTING PURPOSES. IF SO, THEN WE CAN ENDORSE THE LANGUAGE ON THIS POINT CONTAINED IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S "MINIMUM SET" OF OBSERVER TREATMENT CRITERIA, I.E., THAT OBSERVERS SHOULD BE FREE TO UTILIZE NORMAL PUBLIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION (I.E., PTT) TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR EMBASSIES OR HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. HOW AN OBSERVER TRAVELS "TO" A MANEUVER AREA (CRITERION 5) DOES NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR. IF THIS CRITERION SHOULD HAVE READ "TO AND WITHIN" AN AREA, THEN OUR COMMENT WOULD BE THAT THE INVITATIONS OF THOSE AUTHORITIES WHICH INSISTED ON TRAVEL BY FOOT, OR IN VEHICLES WITH LIMITED OBSERVATION WOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE RELATIVELY MEANINGLESS. ALSO NOTE LANGUAGE IN REFTEL F, PARA 3 (E) DEALING WITH PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MANEUVER OBSERVERS WHILE IN THE FIELD.

3. WE HAVE PLACED CRITERION 4 AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PRIORITY ORDER AS WE BELIEVE NATO MANEUVER COMMANDERS AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE WARSAW PACT WOULD WISH TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN TIME FOR BRIEFINGS OR MEETINGS WITH OBSERVERS. MILITARY COMMITTEE'S VIEW SHOULD BE SOUGHT CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL. IN ANY CASE, WE BELIEVE CONFIDENTIAL

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LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES OF "CONSISTENT WITH HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES" SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSAL TO ALLOW A COMMANDER FLEXIBILITY. ALSO NOTE LANGUAGE IN REFTEL F, PARA 3 (I) CONCERNING OBSERVER ACCESS TO MANEUVER UNIT COMMANDERS.

B. MILITARY COMMITTEE MIGHT ALSO CLARIFY WHETHER "WHERE THE LATTER MAY OCCASIONALLY BE" COULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR "WHERE OCCASIONALLY" TO HOLD THE RESTRICTION TO CAMERAS ONLY. THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS' PARANOIA CONCERNING PHOTOGRAPHY IN GENERAL IS A FAMILIAR FACT TO ANY PERSON WHO HAS VISITED OR BEEN ASSIGNED TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY AND OUR MILITARY MAY ALSO FIND IT USEFUL TO BE ABLE OCCASIONALLY TO RESTRICT PHOTOGRAPHY. ON THE OTHER HAND, BINOCULARS ARE A GENERALLY ACCEPTED AND HISTORICAL TOOL OF OBSERVERS. WE ALSO NOTE THAT ORIGINAL FRG PROPOSAL (REFTEL G) INCLUDED ACCESS TO MAPS. WE DO NOT OPPOSE PROVIDING MANEUVER OBSERVERS WITH ADEQUATE MAPS (REFTEL F, PARA 3 (G)).

5. FOR STOCKHOLM. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO INQUIRE OF SWEDES CONCERNING STATUS OF THEIR POSSIBLE "CODE OF CONDUCT" PROPOSAL. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT ALLIES ARE BEGINNING THEIR OWN DISCUSSION, BUT REFER ONLY TO CONVERSATION IN PARAGRAPH FOUR OF REFTEL E.

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